

In the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system that distributes video data to a ~~user terminal~~client computer which can connect to ~~the video distribution system~~one or more server computers via a network, comprising:

a distribution list generating device that generates a distribution list that defines a distribution order of said video data to said ~~user terminal~~client computer and includes a link name that links to video data as a distribution request destination;

a link list generating device that generates a link list that is a correspondence list between said link name and a video data file name corresponding to said link name, and stores said link list into ~~the video distribution system~~a server computer; and

a link list updating device that updates the link list by replacing the video data file name corresponding to the link name in said link list to another video data file name ~~depending on~~a function of distribution conditions, the updating being conducted exclusively by the ~~video distribution system~~server computer,

wherein said video data is distributed based on said link list.

2. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1 wherein, in the case in which said video data is associated with distribution condition information that includes as said distribution conditions at least one of the distribution time information that designates the time and duration for distribution, distribution area information that designates the distribution area, cumulative distribution number information that limits the cumulative number of distributions, and attribute information about the user,

said link list updating device ~~updates~~replaces the video data file name corresponding to said link name ~~to~~with a video data file name of a video data satisfying the distribution conditions included in said distribution condition information.

3. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1 wherein, in the case in which predetermined request information is received from said ~~user terminal~~client

computer, said link list updating device ~~updates~~replaces the video data file name corresponding to the link name ~~to~~with said video data file name corresponding to said request information.

4. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1, wherein a video data selecting device that selects video data to be subsequently distributed based on the information about the video data that is being distributed is further provided; and

said link list updating device ~~updates~~replaces the video data file name corresponding to said link name ~~to~~with a video data file name of the video data selected by said video data selecting device.

5. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1 wherein, in the case in which said video data is further associated with the information about said video data, further comprising:

a video data selecting device that refers to said information about the video data that is scheduled for distribution and selects video data to be distributed thereafter; and

said link list updating device ~~updates~~replaces the video data file name corresponding to the link name ~~to~~with said video data file name of the video data that has been selected by said video data selecting device.

6. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1 wherein said link list updating device ~~updates~~replaces the video data file name by referring to the priority order list that determines the priority order in the distribution of the video data.

7. (Currently amended) A video distribution system that distributes video data to a ~~user terminal~~client computer that can connect to ~~the video distribution system~~one or more server computers via a network, comprising:

a distribution list generating device for generating a distribution list defining a distribution order of said video data to said ~~user terminal~~client computer and including a link name which links to video data or another distribution list as distribution request destinations;

a link list generating device for generating a link list which is a correspondence list between said link name and a video data file name or a distribution list name corresponding to said link name, and stores said link list into ~~the video distribution system~~a server computer; and

a link list updating device for updating the link list by replacing the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name in said link list ~~to~~with another video data file name or another distribution list name ~~depending on~~as a function of distribution conditions, the updating being conducted exclusively by the ~~video distribution system~~server computer,

wherein said video data is distributed based on said link list.

8. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method in a video distribution system for distributing video data to a ~~user terminal~~client computer that can be connected to ~~the video distribution system~~one or more server computers via a network, comprising the steps of:

generating a distribution list that defines a distribution order of said video data to said ~~user terminal~~client computer and includes a link name linked to video data as a distribution request destination;

generating a link list that is a correspondence list between said link name and a video data file name corresponding to the link name, and storing said link list into ~~the video distribution system~~a server computer; and

updating the link list by replacing the video data file name corresponding to the link name in said link list ~~to~~with another video data file name ~~depending on~~as a function of distribution conditions, the updating being conducted exclusively by the ~~video distribution system~~server computer,

wherein said video data is distributed based on said link list.

9. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 8 wherein, when said video data is associated with distribution time information for specifying a time or a period as a distribution condition, distribution area information for specifying a distribution area, cumulative distribution number information for limiting the cumulative distribution number, or distribution condition information including more than one of user's attribution information,

said updating step for updating said link list ~~updates~~replaces a video data file name corresponding to said link list name ~~to~~with a video data file name of a video data which satisfy the distribution condition contained in said distribution condition information.

10. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method in a video distribution system for distributing a video data to a ~~user terminal-client computer~~ that can be connected to ~~the video distribution system~~ one or more server computers via a network, the video distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating a distribution list that defines a distribution order of said video data to said ~~user terminal-client computer~~ and includes a link name which is linked to video data or another distribution list as a distribution request destination;

generating a link list that is a correspondence list between said link name and a video data file name or a distribution list name corresponding to said link name, and storing said link list into ~~the video distribution system~~ a server computer; and

updating the link list by replacing the video data file name or said distribution list name corresponding to the link name in said link list ~~to~~ with another video data file name or another distribution list name ~~depending on~~ as a function of distribution conditions, the updating being conducted exclusively by the ~~video distribution system~~ server computer,

wherein said video data is distributed based on said link list.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for a video distribution system which distributes video data to a ~~user terminal-client computer~~ which can be connected to ~~the video distribution system~~ one or more server computers via a network, the program causing performance of a method comprising the steps of:

generating a distribution list defining a distribution order of said video data to said ~~user terminal-client computer~~ including a link name which is linked with the video data as a distribution request destination;

generating a link list which is a correspondence list between said link name and a video data file name corresponding to said link name, and storing said link list into ~~the video distribution system~~ a server computer; and

updating the link list by replacing the video data file name corresponding to the link name in said link list ~~to~~ with another video data file name ~~depending on~~ as a function of distribution conditions, the updating being conducted exclusively by the ~~video distribution system~~ server computer,

wherein said video data is distributed based on said link list.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein, when said video data is associated with distribution time information for specifying a time or a period as a distribution condition, distribution area information for specifying a distribution area, cumulative distribution number information for limiting the cumulative distribution number, or distribution condition information including more than one of users attribution information, said step of updating said link list ~~updates-replaces~~ the video data file name corresponding to said link name ~~to-with~~ the video data file name of a video data which satisfies the distribution conditions contained in said distribution condition information.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for a video distribution system which distributes video data to a ~~user terminal~~ client computer which can be connected to ~~the video distribution system~~ one or more server computers via a network, the program causing performance of a method comprising the steps of:

generating a distribution list which defines a distribution order of said video data to said ~~user terminal~~ client computer and contains a link name which is linked to video data or another distribution list as a distribution request destination;

generating a link list which is a correspondence list between said link name and a video data file name or a distribution list name corresponding to said link name, and storing said link list into ~~the video distribution system~~ a server computer; and

updating the link list by replacing the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to said link name in said link list ~~to-with~~ another video data file name or another distribution list name ~~depending on~~ as a function of distribution conditions, the updating being conducted exclusively by the ~~video distribution system~~ server computer,

wherein said video data is distributed based on said link list.

14. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of pieces of the video data are distributed in accordance with the distribution order defined by the distribution list, and the link list updating device ~~updates-replaces~~ the video data file name corresponding to the link name ~~to-with~~ the other video data file name while the distribution of the video data is performed.

15. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1 , wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the link list updating device obtains a distribution state and ~~updates-replaces~~ the video data file name corresponding to the link name ~~to-with~~ the other video data file name ~~in accordance with~~ as a function of the distribution state thus obtained and the distribution conditions.

16. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1 , wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the link list updating device ~~updates-replaces~~ the video data file name corresponding to the link name ~~to-with~~ the other video data file name a predetermined time before a scheduled time for distributing the video data.

17. (Previously Presented) A video distribution system according to claim 15, wherein the link list updating device periodically obtains a distribution log as the distribution state.

18. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1 wherein the link list updating device ~~updates-replaces~~ a video data file name stored in a first video distribution server ~~to-with~~ another video data file name stored in a second video distribution server.

19. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 7, wherein a plurality of pieces of the video data are distributed in accordance with the distribution order defined by the distribution list, and the link list updating device ~~updates-replaces~~ the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name ~~to-with~~ the other video data file name or the other distribution list name while the distribution of the video data is performed.

20. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 7, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the link list updating device obtains a distribution state and ~~updates-replaces~~ the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name ~~to-with~~ the other video data file name or the other distribution list name ~~in accordance with~~ as a function of the distribution state thus obtained and the distribution conditions.

21. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 7, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the link list updating device ~~updates~~ replaces the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name ~~to~~ with the other video data file name or the other distribution list name a predetermined time before a scheduled time for distributing the video data.

22. (Previously Presented) A video distribution system according to claim 20, wherein the link list updating device periodically obtains a distribution log as the distribution state.

23. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 7, wherein the link list updating device ~~updates~~ replaces a video data file name or a distribution list name stored in a first video distribution server ~~to~~ with another video data file name or another distribution list name stored in a second video distribution server.

24. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of pieces of the video data are distributed in accordance with the distribution order defined by the distribution list, and the video data file name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name while the distribution of the video data is performed.

25. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 8, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, a distribution state is obtained and the video data file name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name ~~in accordance with~~ as a function of the distribution state thus obtained and the distribution conditions.

26. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 8, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the video data file name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name a predetermined time before a scheduled time for distributing the video data.

27. (Previously Presented) A video distribution method according to claim 25, wherein a distribution log is periodically obtained as the distribution state.

28. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 8, wherein a video data file name stored in a first video distribution server is ~~updated to~~ replaced with another video data file name stored in a second video distribution server.

29. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 10, wherein a plurality of pieces of the video data are distributed in accordance with the distribution order defined by the distribution list, and the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name or the other distribution list name while the distribution of the video data is performed.

30. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 10, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, a distribution state is obtained and the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name or the other distribution list name ~~in accordance with~~ as a function of the distribution state thus obtained and the distribution conditions.

31. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 10, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name or the other distribution list name a predetermined time before a scheduled time for distributing the video data.

32. (Previously Presented) A video distribution method according to claim 30, wherein a distribution log is periodically obtained as the distribution state.

33. (Currently Amended) A video distribution method according to claim 10, wherein a video data file name or a distribution list name stored in a first video distribution server is ~~updated to~~ replaced with another video data file name or another distribution list name stored in a second video distribution server.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11 , wherein a plurality of pieces of the video data are distributed in accordance with the distribution order defined by the distribution list, and the video data file name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name while the distribution of the video data is performed.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11 , wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, a distribution state is obtained and the video data file name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name ~~in accordance with~~ as a function of the distribution state thus obtained and the distribution conditions.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the video data file name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name a predetermined time before a scheduled time for distributing the video data.

37. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 35, wherein the distribution log is periodically obtained as the distribution state.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein a video data file name stored in a first video distribution server is ~~updated to~~ replaced with another video data file name stored in a second video distribution server.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein a plurality of pieces of the video data are distributed in accordance with the distribution order defined by the distribution list, and the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name or the other distribution list name while the distribution of the video data is performed.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, a distribution state is obtained and the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name or the other distribution list name ~~in accordance with~~ as a function of the distribution state thus obtained and the distribution conditions.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein while the distribution of the video data is performed, the video data file name or the distribution list name corresponding to the link name is ~~updated to~~ replaced with the other video data file name or the other distribution list name a predetermined time before a scheduled time for distributing the video data.

42. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 40, wherein the distribution log is periodically obtained as the distribution state.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein a video data file name or a distribution list name stored in a first video distribution server is ~~updated to~~ replaced with another video data file name or another distribution list name stored in a second video distribution server.

44. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the link list updating device ~~updates~~ replaces the video data file name ~~to~~ with the other video data file name ~~depending on~~ as a function of distribution conditions that are different in respective users.

45. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a distribution list delivery device that delivers the distribution list to the ~~user terminal~~ client computer; and

a video data distribution device that receives a distribution request of video data designating the link name in the distribution list from the ~~user terminal~~client computer, obtains the video data based on the other video data ~~link file~~ name after an update which is included in the link list that has the designated link name, and distributes the obtained video data to the ~~user terminal~~client computer.

46. (Previously Presented) A video distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the distribution conditions are variable for respective distribution requests designating link names.